Protection Force Act, 1957 and the Railway Act, 1989 were amended by the Parliament in December 2003 and the amendments came into effect from 1st July, 2004.

(d) The Railway Protection Force has been invested with additional responsibilities for the better security of passengers and passenger area. The minor offences under Chapter XV of the Railways Act, except sabotage related offences under Sections 150,151 and 152, have been brought under the ambit of the officers authorized by the Central Government for arrest, causing inquiry and other legal procedures, prosecution etc. From 1st July, 2004, the Railway Protection Force has been deployed for escorting of affected passenger carrying trains over the affected Sections in coordination with the State Governments. The Railway Protection Force is providing on an average 1,128 escort parties and provides additional security in 577 stations, deploying an average of 6,217 staff daily. These are in addition to the Government Railway Police personnel deployed on the Stations and in the running trains. The deployment of RPF personnel, to supplement the efforts of Government Railway Police, has enabled Government Railway Police under the State Governments to provide more man power and focus their attention better on the heinous crimes in the trains and railway premises. This arrangement has resulted in aprehension and prosecution of 7,46,150 offenders under the delegated Sections of the Railways Act by the Railway Protection Force. In addition, 105 cases of drugging, 202 cases of luggage theft, 57 cases of illegal weapons, 65 cases of gold chain/mangalsutra snatching, 302 cases of smuggling of ganja/ charas and 274 cases under Indian Penal Code have been detected by the RPF and handed over to GRP concerned.

Cleaning of trains and railway stations

2161. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to keep the trains and railway stations clean;

(b) the steps being taken to see that the human waste is not littered on railway lines and stations;

(c) whether any study has been made on how railway stations are kept clean and good smelling in other developing countries of the world; and

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to stop this open bottom toilet system, which makes our stations some of the foulest smelling places in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) For periodic cleaning of coach toilets and removal of garbage etc. from running trains, a process has been developed with suitable mechanization. This has been given the name 'Clean Train Station'. This system is presently working at Ratlam station of Western Railway. As surveys have shown favourable passenger response, it is planned to set up this facility at 16 different stations by March, 2006 and at 50 stations by March, 2010.

Railways have also introduced Controlled Discharge Toilet System in new design LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) coaches which prevents spillage of waste at major junctions and terminals. These will be gradually extended to other coaches.

Railways also plan to try and introduce Zero Discharge Toilet System in which there will be no discharge on to the track.

For improving cleanlines at railway stations, a number of initiatives have been taken which include emphasis on mechanized cleaning processes, additional dustbins, regular removal of garbage, spraying of insecticides, repairs to drains, introduction of 'Pay & Use' scheme of toilets etc. Moreover, cleanlines drives and surprise checks are also conducted from time to time. Frequent announcements are made to seek the cooperation of the traveling public in keeping the station premises clean.

Scam in refund of fake tickets

2162. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Railway Officer of Vadodara Division of Western Railway was arrested in respect of scam of refunding the amount for fake railway tickets;